

"7-Up"

Scripture: Matthew 15:1-20

Texts: "These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth ~~evil~~ wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." KJV Prov. 6:16-19

"But those things which proceed from ~~the heart~~ out of the mouth come forth from the heart, and they defile ~~them~~ the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man." KJV Matthew 15:18, ~~19,20~~ 19,20a

XXXXXXXXXXboyXwasXwalkingXthroughXaXcemeteryXwithXhisXdadXandXasXtheyXreachedXtheXgateXheXaskedX"GeXdadXyXwhereXareXallXtheXwickedXpeopleXburiedX"
heXwouldXwonderXthisXwhenEVERXheXwalksXthroughXanyXcemeteryXforXwaXspeakXveryXkindlyXtoXtheXdeadXandXitXappearsXthatXallXcemeteriesXareXfilledXwithX
XXXXXXapostlessXsaintsXButXtheXfunXofXtheXmatterXisXthatXallXpeopleXwhoXwalkXuponXtheXfaceXofXtheXearthX

I am certain that almost ~~if~~ all of you can identify what makes/or made ~~th~~ the contents of this can. It is a can of a popular soft drink called "7-up".

Now if I were to ask you if there is a mention made in the Bible to this, I am sure that you would be hard pressed to find it. But in ^{16th verse of} the 6th chapter of Proverbs ^{if you stretch your imagination} there is an indirect mention to the term. It is found in the 16th verse. ^{And then} We read there, (read 16a of text). ~~Then~~ we see that there are

recorded 7 things that are detested by God. 7 things that are UP on the top of the list of things God hates, or "7-Up" if you will.

1st is a proud look. This is done with the eyes and actions of an individual. We are told time after time in scripture that we are not to be proud. Perhaps we need to explain thatby this is meant a vain pride in our accomplishments that keeps us from being humble. Pride that we have done something and we refuse to acknowledge that God has made all of it possible. This is the pride ~~spoke of, and it is a very common thing with people~~ that makes us look u n our fellow-man as not being as good as we. Or a pride that makes us place ourselves over and above others. The pride ~~that~~ of the Pharisee, who prayed to God, thanking Him that he was not like ~~many other~~ a lot of other

people he knew.

- 2 "A lying tongue," is making use of the mouth and voice to state things that are not true.
- 3 "And hands that shed innocent blood," the use of the hands to accomplish evil means.
- 4 "An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations," involves the heart naturally,
- 5 "Feet that are swift in running to mischief," involves the use of the feet to carry a person to the wrong places and involve him in doing the wrong things.
- 6 "A false witness that speaketh lies," involves the tongue and mouth again.
- 7 "And he that soweth discord among the brethren," is again using the voice, and actions to do wrong against our neighbors.

Thus we see that five of the "7-Up" for consideration involve parts of the body. "The eyes, tongue, hands, heart and feet." But out of all of this list we can narrow it down to 3 basic things that God hates, and they are, "Sin, Sin, and Sin." God hates sin in any shape or form, and we must realize this.

Our scripture for this morning tells us of the thinking of Jesus along these lines and we see that He has further ~~ed~~ narrowed all of this down to 1 basic thing and He says it is the "Heart." He says, (read text from Matthew). His answer was in reference to the Scribes and the Pharisees who came asking why His disciples did not observe the ceremonial handwashing before eating. This hand washing was necessary because of the dry dusty conditions in Palestine. Upon entering a house, a person sat down and either washed his own feet or a servant did it for him. Before eating a person was required to wash his hands. ~~xxxxxxasinx provided for this function~~ To the Jew it was more than just a casual rinsing of the hands as children often do. But it took upon itself an actual ritual. The hands ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxwashed up to the~~ ~~xxxx~~ were washed before each meal, and between each of the courses. They were not only washed, but had to be washed in a certain way. The hands had to be free of any coating of sand, or mortar or other substance. The water

for washing was kept in special large stone jars, which had to contain clean water especially for that purpose. Nothing was permitted to fall into them, or mixed with the water. First the hands were held with the fingers pointing upward. Water was poured over the hands so that it ran down to the wrist. The minimum amount of water was approximately one quarter of a log, which is equal to one and a half egg-shells full of water. While the hands were wet they had to be cleaned one against the other. This was done by rubbing the fist of one hand into the palm of the other. This now meant that the water used to clean the hands was unclean, because it had touched unclean hands. So now the hands had to be rinsed again to remove the unclean water. So now the hands were held with the fingers pointing downward, and the water was poured in such a way that it ran from the wrists and off the fingertips. Thus when all of this had taken place, the hands were considered clean. Now this is what Jesus was talking about when he was being questioned as to why his disciples did not wash their hands before eating. He was telling them that the thing that really mattered was not how they washed their hands, or how many of the ritualistic laws they had kept, but the purity of a man's heart.

So in essence Jesus was reiterating that which Solomon said so many years before, that God looks upon the heart of man and He hates the sins that proceed from an evil heart. ⁽¹⁶⁶⁵⁾ Sometime ago wet leaves covered the tracks of the New Haven railroad and they stalled a 100 car freight. Dwight L. Moody once said, (Illustration of this). From this we see that little by little sins start out as small insignificant things. They are like the arab who was seated in his nice warm tent while his camel was outside in the cold night. (Illustration of this story, Arab and Camel.)

Now all of this had to do with sin, but what is also being pointed out is that religion can take upon itself a ritualism instead of true worship. Some people are still of the mind, that if they attend church regularly, give liberally, commune often, all is well with their soul. But this is not so. True religion does not consist in a ritualistic pattern of observances.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 2, 1975
 REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
 MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST
 MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
 NANCY LINK, ELLEN MASTER - ACOLYTES

 ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
 PRELUDE MUSIC: "Adagio" GUILMANY
 "SERENADE" CZERWONKY

SILENT PRAYER
 *PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 38 "O DAY OF REST AND GLADNESS"
 *ACSCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN
 *EXHORTATION
 *CONFESSION (IN UNISON) - "IN THY GREAT MERCY HEAR US,
 OUR FATHER, AS WE CONFESS OUR MANY SINS AGAINST THEE
 AND OUR BRETHREN. FOR ALL ANGER AND SELF-WILL; FOR
 ALL USE OF OUR STRENGTH TO REAY DOWN THOSE WHO ARE
 WEAKER; FOR EVERY UNHOLY DESIRE AND IMPURE THOUGHT;
 FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY WHICH IS THE ROOT OF EVIL; FOR
 HATREDS AND PREJUDICES WHICH INJURE OTHERS AND CORRUPT
 OUR OWN SOULS; FOR LITTLE SACRIFICES ON BEHALF OF
 GREAT CAUSES; FOR PLACING DEPENDENCE IN OURSELVES RATHER
 THAN IN THEE, FORGIVE US, O LORD "THROUGH JESUS CHRIST
 OUR SAVIOUR, AMEN."
 *KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)
 *ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN
 *PRAISE
 *PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.
 *PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE
 *DOXOLOGY No. 55
 SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 15: 1-20
 HYMN No. 19 "WE PRAISE THEE, O GOD, OUR REDEEMER"
 *AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)
 *GLORIA PATRI
 *CALL TO PRAYER
 *PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.
 *PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.
 *PASTOR: LET US PRAY.
 *PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE
 *OFFERING

OFFERTORY "PRAYER" SERGISSON
 ANTHEM: "AMAZING GRACE" NEWTON
 SERMON:
 PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
 *HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 290 "STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS"
 (STANDING FOR ALL FOUR VERSES)
 *BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN
 POSTLUDE: "FANFARE POSTLUDE" GRAHAM

 *CONGREGATION STANDING -----
 THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
 MR. & MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON TO THE "GLORY OF GOD"
 SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: "ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN
 REOMAN, DAN BOBKO, ROBERT KNAUER AND CHARLES PENAR.
 ELDER ARTHUR SNYDER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE OOOOR.
 NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. RODNEY RENDEL,
 MRS. PHILIP SNYDER AND PAULA STEPHENSON.
 THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 174
 MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUCH CIRCLE
 WED. - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
 THURS. - NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE HAVE
 ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY. MR. W.W. PFABE-BOMH *WIFE*
 HOSPITALIZED: MRS. AMELIA CREHER, NORTH SIDE HOSP.
 YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44504 - ROOM 379, MRS. DOROTHY
 NICHOLAS, MRS. TREBA NICHOLAS, REV. GRANVILLE COOPER.
 HAROLD SANDBACH WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION
 FOR THE FLOWERS FROM THE ALTAR, CARDS AND PRAYERS.
 TONIGHT: 6:30 P.M. - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE. - *7:00 PM*
 COMING EVENTS: TUES. FEB. 11, 7:30 - HISTORY REPEATS
 ITSELF. REMEMBER THE MEN'S FASHION SHOW? THE ARC
 CLASS IS SPONSORING A BEELINE PARTY AND FASHION SHOW
 WITH "RACHEL" LINK, "DARLA" KENNEDY AND "PAULINE"
 PFABE MODELING THE LATEST IN WOMEN'S FASHIONS.
 THERE WILL ALSO BE WOMEN MODELS, DOOR PRIZES AND
 REFRESHMENTS. NO ADMISSION CHARGE AND GUESTS ARE
 WELCOME.
 FEB. 15 - SATURDAY - SWEETHEART DINNER*DANCE - AT
 SAXONBURG FIRE HALL. FISH TURKEY OR ROAST BEEF IS ON
 THE MENU. DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. - WAYNE DEANERS AND
 BEA TAIT HAVE TICKETS. YOU WILL REALLY ENJOY THIS -
 NOT MUCH TIME LEFT SO GET YOUR TICKETS NOW.
 THURS. - FEB. 20 - 6:30 - BUTLER AREA LAYMAN'S DINNER
 AND MEETING - BOB TAIT, J. W. HARMON HAVE TICKETS.
 DINNER IS AT OUR CHURCH - J. BRENNAN WILL BE 1ST SPEAKER

Thus when done hands clean
 This wat Js talk bout be questioned bout disc.
 He tell no matter how wash/how many law kept,
 hat matter, purity mans heart

Thus Js reiterate wat Solo say Prov 15:6:16
 G lock hart man/He hate sin proceed from evil hart
 (It is. wet leaves)
 little by little sins pile up,
 start small insignif, build up
 (Illus camel & arab)
 All start out small white lie, no consequ
 them lie bout neighbor, friend,
 little by little, add & grow & our lives become
 full of "7-Up" Solo warn against

(Illus John Newton)
 Choir sang this, Amazing Grace
 This ans 2 "7-Up" of sin.

1st need awareness we sinful by nature,
 sinners whether want 3 or not

Then must B repentant,
 This message Jn Bap preach/Js preach/
 " " we must hear & preach 2day.

When repent, we have Grace of G
 That Amazing Grace that saves wretches such as we
 come & drink, not of the "7-Up" of sin,
 but of that living water which Js Xp the Lord.

Scripture: Matt. 15:1-20
 Key's: Prov. 6:16-19,
 The 6 six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are
 an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue,
 and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that
 deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in
 runn'g to mischief, a false witness that speaketh
 lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Matt: 15: 18-20a, "But those things which proceed
 from out of the mouth come forth from the heart, and
 they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed
 evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications,
 thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the
 things which defile a man."

Hold up "7-Up"
 If ask where in Bib, U hard press 2 find
 16th vs, 6 chap Prov if stretch imag it mentioned
 Read Text:
 7 things detest by G
 7 things Up on top of list things G hates
 "7-Up" if U will

1. proud look-eyes/actions, phari & prayer
2. lying tongue-mouth/voice, tell lies-Jain, Jo Bros
3. hands shed inno blud-hands, Jain, David
4. hart devis wicked imagin-hart, David, Saul
5. ft swift runn mischief-ft, Gehazi, serv Elisha
6. fals wit speak lies-tongue/mouth, peop vs Js.
7. he sow discord among breth=voice/actions, Jos bro

5 of "7-Up" involve parts body,
 but out of whole list 3 basic thing G hates,
 SIN, SIN, SIN
 G hate SIN any shape/form whatever
 Scrip this AM tell think Js these lines,
 He narrow all down 1 basic thing,
 He say HEART

(READ MATT. TEXT)
 His ans to Phars/scribes ask bout dis & handwash
 Pales dust/dry need wash ft enter house
 B4 eat wash hand, mor than casual wash 4 Jew
 It actual ritual

1st hand B free sand/mortar/other subs.
 Waterkept lg jars, must B clean
 (nd wash finger pt up
 Water run dn 2 wrist, approx 1 log=1/4 eggshell
 Rub one fist hand other, this make water unclean
 So must rinse again, & finger pt dn, water run off

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.